

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A method and apparatus for determining load level in a communication system are disclosed. The method and apparatus according to various exemplary embodiments excludes the necessity to decode the data channel for determining the data rate. The data rate is independently determined in a receiver (500) based on the RRI channel information based on an algorithm (600). The load and rise values are used to determine whether to deny or allow  
10 or reduce communication access to a MS as a way to control the reliability of the communications services provided to other users in the coverage area. The data rate of at least one reverse link may be reduced to bring the load level to a low percentage operating region.

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